Evaluation of medical ethics application in Hail, KSA

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Abstract— Throughout history, men have repeatedly made judgments regarding their own conduct and that of their fellow men. Some acts have been judged to be right or good, while other acts have been denounced as wrong or evil. Ethical judgment in medicine, as inother areas of life, is an attempt to distinguish between good and bad conduct. Research ethics guidelines are essential for conducting medical research. Recently, numerous attempts have been made to establish national clinical research documents in the countries of the Middle East. This article analyzes these documents.

The aim of the study is to evaluate the application of medical ethics in medical field in Hail, KSA

Index Terms— Medical ethics application, Saudi Arabia, Hail

INTRODUCTION

In the past three decades, medical ethics has emerged as a priority within medical

education institutions and among ethics educators (1).1 Ethics is an understanding of the nature of conflicts arising from moral imperatives and how best we may deal with them. Specifically it deals with conflicts in potential outcome (consequences of actions) or with duties and obligations(1,2). Ethics does not decide what is morally right or wrong; rather it considers how we should act best in the light of our duties and obligations as moral agents. Clinicians have specific duties of care to their patients and to society.

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It is generally held that clinicians should always act in the best interest of their patients; but sometimes there is a conflict between obligations to a patient and those perceived to be owed to the community or to other patients. It may not always be the case that what the clinician believes is in the best interest of the patient is what the patient wishes or will consent to. Central to modern medical ethics is a respect for patient autonomy and the fundamental principle of informed consent (2). Medical Ethics is a practical subject as well as a branch of moral philosophy. Ethics is an integral part of good medical practice.

It is an essential branch of medicine. Ethics deals with the choices we make and our actions in relation to those choices. It deals with choices made by both clinicians and patients and the duties and obligations of clinicians to their patients. Medical ethics also deals with the choices made by society, the distribution of resources and access to health care and the dilemmas arising from them (3). Patients have duties and obligations too, which is why we should respect them as moral agents. Parents have duties of care to their children; and sometimes a clinician's duty to a child patient may conflict with those of the parents, and this needs an ethical approach to resolve (1,2).

METHODS

The program of SPSS (Cohort method) was used for statistical analysis of the results (4)

MATERIAL

Questionnaire was designed and distributed on student in collage of medicine 4th year and physicians in general and private hospitals in Hail , to become 3 groups:. Group1 - students (4th and 6th years) "45" Group 2- physicians in government hospitals (KKH and Hail hospital) "26" Group3-physicians in private hospitals (Salamat - Alsafa - Alkhaleej - Alrayan) "39"

RESULTS

1.Group I: of medical students in Hail University (total 45)

Table I:	Results	of ques	tionnaire	of med	ical stu-
dents	in	Hail	Unive	ersity	(total
45)				5	,

Evaluation Questions	Yes	perc e nt	N o	perc e nt	To so me ex- ten t	perce nt
1-Did you	45	100%	0	0%	0	0%

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study medical Ethics before?							lution of the concept of						
2-Do you think	44	97.8%	1	2.2%	0	0%	patients' rights						
that the health							?		E1 1 0/	24	16 70/	4	2.20/
practitioner must comply							10-Can the study of ethics	23	51.1%	21	46.7%	1	2.2%
with the ethics							be contributed						
of his							to						
profession?							manage the						
3-Do you think	45	100%	0	0%	0	0%	ethical prob-						
that ethics of the health							lems faced by the						
practitioner							doctor at the						
has positive							practice of						
effect on his							medicine ?					-	
patients? 4-Do you think	44	97.8%	1	2.2%	0	0%	11-Did the study of differ-	33	73.3%	12	26.7%	0	0%
that dealing	44	97.8%	T	2,2%	0	0%	ent ethics rules						
with col-							increase your						
leagues							knowledge to						
ethically has							make a deci-						
positive effect							sion ethically?						
5-Have you	2	4.4%	3	6.7%	40	88.9%	12-Have you	42	93.3%	2	4.4%	1	2.2%
ever found a							explained the						
health practi-							importance of						
tioner that behaves							the study of ethics						
unethically?!							commitment						
6-Do you think	33	73.3%	12	26.7%	0	0%	to the interests						
that it is neces-							of the patient's						
sary for a							doctor without any racial or						
physician to have intensive							religious dis-						
courses of the							crimination ?						
ethics from							13-ls there	2	4.4%	6	13.3%	37	82.2%
time to time?!	4.4	07.00/	4	2.20/	0	0.0%	problem or a condition that						
7-Do you sup- port the im-	44	97.8%	1	2.2%	0	0%	forces						
portance of							you to behave						
teaching							unethically?						
medical ethics							14-Does the	41	91.1%	4	8.95%	0	0%
in the medical training?!							study of medi- cal ethics help						
8-In your opi-	45	100%	0	0%	0	0%	you						
nion, does the							to know your						
(secret of the							duties as a doctor?						
core values) relationship							15-Does the	43	95.6%	2	4.4%	0	0%
between doc-							study of medi-		20.070	-	I , I /U	Ũ	0,0
tor							cal ethics help						
and his patient							you						
depend mainly on							to know the patient's rights						
confidentiality?							?						
9-Are you in-	23	51.1%	18	40%	4	8.9%	16-Can medical	7	15.6%	22	48.9%	16	35.6%
fluenced by							ethics be sub-						
the Medical Ethics in							jected to changes?						
the recent evo-							17-Is Medical	23	51.1%	13	28.9%	9	20%
	1	I	I	I	I	l			÷ 1,1 /0	10	_0,770	-	_0/0

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Ethics rules varies accord-							Table I showed that 100% of medical students in faculty of medicine, Hail	
ing to countries ?							University had studied ethics, thought that ethics of the health practitioner has	
18-Do the rules of Medical Eth-	29	64.4%	12	26.7%	4	8.9%	positive effect on his patients, that relationship between doctor and his patient	
ics							depends mainly on confidentiality and never received any	
contributed to the develop-							offer from pharmaceutical companies before(questions 1, 3, 8 and 24).	
ment of your interaction							Also a high percentages (more than 90%) agreed that health practitioner	
with emergen-							must comply with the	
cy situations in the							ethics of his profession, dealing with colleagues ethically has a positive effect,	
absence of another doctor							support the importance of teaching medical ethics in the med- ical training,	
?		01.10/		0.001			explained the importance of the study of ethics commitment to	
19-Do you think it is ne-	41	91.1%	4	8.9%	0	0%	the interests of the patient's doctor without any racial or religious discrimination,	
cessary to take the							the study of medical ethics help them to know their duties as doctors, help them to	
patient's con- sent before any							know the patient's rights and the necessity to take the patient's consent before	
action ?							any action (questions	
20-ls there a specialized de-	13	28.9%	15	33.3%	17	37.8%	2, 4, 7, 12,14, 15 and 19). On the other hand, the least agreements (less than 10%) were	
partment set the							about finding any health practitioner that behaved unethically, exposure to any	
ethical rules in							problem or a condition that forced them to behave unethically and facing	
your hospital? 21-Do the new	24	53.3%	14	31.1%	7	15.6%	any difficulties in	
technology and recent							maintaining medical ethical values * questions 5, 13 and 22). The other questions showed different percentage variation in	
medical prob- lems emerged							students' answers. The mean of total agreements was 80.13%.	
a new ethical							2. Group II: physicians in Governmental Hospitals	
issues ? 22-Do you	4	8.9%	7	15.6%	34	75.6%	Table II: Results of questionnaire of physicians in	
have difficul- ties in main-							Gøvernmental Hospitals (Tptal 26)	
taining medical ethical							QuestionsYesPer-NoPer-TPercentofevalua-centcento	t
values?							tion s	
23-Did Medical Ethics help you	37	82.2%	8	17.8%	0	0%	0 m	
to know your duties towards							e	
your communi-							xt e	
ty? 24-Have you	0	0%	0	0%	45	100%	n	
ever received an offer from a							1- Did you 24 92.3 0 0% 2 7.7%	
pharmaceutical company to							study med- ical Ethics	
market one of							before?	
its products ?							think that %	
Mean of total agreement	80.13 %						the health practitioner	
		1	1	1	1	1	must	

		1	1	1	1		1:1:1-1							
comply							tiality?			10 -	10			
with the							9- Are	you	11	42.3	12	46.2	3	11.5%
ethics of his							influence	ed		%		%		
profession?							by the M	led-						
3- Do you	26	100	0	0%	0	0%	ical Et	hics						
think that	20	%	Ŭ	0 /0	0	070	in	the						
		/0												
ethics of the							recent e							
health prac-							lution of	the						
titioner							concept	of						
has positive							patients'							
effect on his							rights							
							10 Can	the	15	57.7	8	30.8	3	11.5%
patients?	05	06.0	0	00/	0	00/	10- Can		15		0		3	11.5%
4- Do you	25	96.2	0	0%	0	0%	study	of		%		%		
think that		%					ethics	be						
dealing							contribu	ted						
with col-							to							
leagues eth-							manage	tho						
							manage	uie						
ically							ethical							
has positive							problem							
effect ?							faced by	the						
5- Have you	14	53.8	1	3.8%	1	42.3%	doctor	at						
ever found		%	-	0.070	1	12.070	the prac							
		/0			1		of media	.iiie						
a health								cine						
practitioner							?	-			_		_	
that							11- Did		17	65.4	7	26.9	2	7.7%
behaves							study	of		%		%		
unethical-							different							
ly?!							ethics ru							
	22	04.6	2	11 -	1	2.00/								
6- Do you	22	84.6	3	11.5	1	3.8%	increase							
think that it		%		%			your kno							
is necessary							ledge	to						
for a physi-							make a	de-						
cian to							cision e							
have inten-							cally?	, un						
								r	20	7(0	(00.1	0	0.0/
sive courses								[ave	20	76.9	6	23.1	0	0%
of the ethics							you	ex-		%		%		
from time							plained	the						
to							importar							
time?!							of the st	udv						
7- Do you	24	92.3	1	3.8%	1	3.8%	of the of	hics						
7- Do you	24		1	3.0 /0	1	3.0 /0		mes						
support the		%					commit-	.1						
importance							ment to							
of teaching							interests	of						
medical							the patie							
ethics in the							doctor							
medical							without	2017						
								5						
training?!							racial	or						
8- In your	25	96.2	1	3.8%	0	0%	religious	5						
opinion,		%					discrimi	na-						
does the	1	1	1				tion	?						
					1		In your	-			1			
(secret of														
(secret of														
the core							lation v	vith						
the core values) re-							lation v your	vith pa-						
the core values) re- lationship							lation v your tients,	vith						
the core values) re-							lation v your tients, you	vith pa- do						
the core values) re- lationship between							lation v your tients, you	vith pa- do						
the core values) re- lationship between doctor and							lation v your tients, you discrimi-	vith pa- do						
the core values) re- lationship between doctor and his patient							lation v your tients, you discrimi- nate	vith pa- do - be-						
the core values) re- lationship between doctor and his patient depend							lation v your tients, you discrimi- nate tween th	vith pa- do - be- nem						
the core values) re- lationship between doctor and his patient depend mainly on							lation v your tients, you discrimi- nate tween th racially	vith pa- do - be- nem or						
the core values) re- lationship between doctor and his patient depend							lation v your tients, you discrimi- nate tween th	vith pa- do - be- nem or						

		0.0/				(= 10/	<u> </u>		0/		0/	-	
13- Is there	0	0%	9	34.6	1	65.4%	a specia-		%		%		
a problem				%	7		lized de-						
or a condi-							partment						
tion that							set the ethi-						
forces							cal						
you to be-							rules in						
have uneth-							your hos-						
ically?							pital?	_					
14- Does	19	73.1	7	26.9	0	0%	21- Do the	15	57.7	7	26.9	4	15.4%
the study of		%		%			new tech-		%		%		
medical		/0		/0					70		/0		
							nology and						
ethics help							recent med-						
you to							ical						
know your							problems						
duties as a							have						
doctor?							emerged a						
15- Does	21	80.8	4	15.4	1	3.8%	new ethical						
the study of		%		%			issues?						
		/0		/0			105uc5.	4	15.4	9	246	1	50%
medical							22- Do you	4		9	34.6	1	50 %
ethics help							have diffi-		%		%	3	
you to							culties in						
know the							maintaining						
patient's							medical						
rights ?							ethical val-						
16- Can	8	30.8	11	42.3	7	26.9%	ues?						
medical	C	%		%	-	_0.,,0	23- Did	20	76.9	5	19.2	1	3.8%
		/0		/0				20		5		T	5.0 /0
ethics be							Medical		%		%		
subjected to							Ethics help						
changes?							you to						
17- Is Medi-	16	61.5	6	23.1	4	15.4%	know your						
	10		0		4	15.4 /0							
cal Ethics		%		%			duties						
rules varies							towards						
according							your com-						
							munity?						
to								-		0	0.0/	-	50 1 0/
countries ?							24- Have	7	26.9	0	0%	1	73.1%
18- Do the	19	73.1	5	19.2	2	7.7%	you ever		%			9	
rules of	-	5%	-	%			received an						
		570		70									
Medical							offer from a						
Ethics con-							pharma-						
tributed to							ceutical						
the							company to						
							company to						
develop-							market one						
ment of							of its						
your inte-							products?						
raction with							Mean of	84.44					
emergency							total	%					
situations							agreement						
in the ab-									•				•
sence of							Table II shows	d the area	wore of a	0110	montal h	0000:1	ale' phy
							Table II showe		wers or g			ospit	
another		1					sicians	to		the			present
doctor ?					L		study question	nnaire. It	showed	that 9	2.3%of	govei	rnmental
					1	3.8%	hospitals'						nysicians
	20	76.9	5	19.2		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,							
19- Do you	20	76.9 %	5	19.2 %	1	5.070	had and a -	hice 1000/	of the	than	the that		
19- Do you think it is	20	76.9 %	5	19.2 %	1	5.0 /0	had studied et		of then				h practi-
19- Do you think it is necessary to	20		5		1	3.070	tioner	must		con	nply	healt	h practi- with
19- Do you think it is necessary to	20		5		1	5.0 %	tioner	must		con	nply	healt	h practi- with
19- Do you think it is necessary to take the pa-	20		5		1	0.070	tioner the ethics of hi	must is professio		con thics (q	nply Juestions	healt	h practi- with d 3). Al-
19- Do you think it is necessary to take the pa- tient's	20		5		1	5.676	tioner the ethics of hi so,	must is professio more	on and e	con thics (q th	nply Juestions Ian	healt s 2 an	h practi- with d 3). Al- 90%
19- Do you think it is necessary to take the pa- tient's consent be-	20		5		1	3.070	tioner the ethics of hi so, thought that t	must is professio more hat dealing	on and e	con thics (q th	nply Juestions Ian	healt s 2 an ally 1	h practi- with d 3). Al- 90% nas posi-
19- Do you think it is necessary to take the pa- tient's consent be- fore any	20		5		1	5.670	tioner the ethics of hi so, thought that t tive	must is professio more hat dealing	on and e g with c effect,	con thics (q th olleagu	nply juestions an ies ethic	healt s 2 an ally ł sı	h practi- with d 3). Al- 90% nas posi- upported
19- Do you think it is necessary to take the pa- tient's consent be- fore any	20		5		1	5.670	tioner the ethics of hi so, thought that t tive	must is professio more hat dealing	on and e g with c effect,	con thics (q th olleagu	nply juestions an ies ethic	healt s 2 an ally ł sı	h practi- with d 3). Al- 90% nas posi- upported
19- Do you think it is necessary to take the pa- tient's consent be-	20		5		5	19.2%	tioner the ethics of hi so, thought that t	must is professio more hat dealing e of teachir	on and e g with c effect,	con thics (q th olleagu	nply juestions an ies ethic	healt s 2 an ally 1 su medie	h practi- with d 3). Al- 90% nas posi- upported

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between doct tiality	or and his (patient of quest		l mainly	on co 4,	onfiden- 7	with col- leagues						
and 8). On th		nd, the l		greemen	,	-	ethically						
their	expos		1.1	to		any	has posi-						
problem or a (0%),	condition th	nat force while		to beha	ve une	ethically 15.4%	tive effect						
had difficulti	es in mair	-		al ethica	ıl valı		5-Have	5	12.8	1	2.6	33	84.6
26.9%	had	0		eived		an	you ever	U	%	-	%	00	%
offer from a	pharmaceu			to marl	ket on		found a						
products 22		(que and	stions			13, 24).	health						
The other que	estions show		erent p	ercentao	e vari		practi- tioner						
governmental			r		,		that be-						
hospitals' doc	ctors' answe			he table.	The 1	mean of	haves un-						
total 84.44%.		agreem	ents			was	ethically?!	22	E00/	15	29 E	1	2 (0/
04.44 %.							6-Do you think that	23	59%	15	38.5 %	1	2.6%
3. Group II	I: Physici	ans in	priva	te hosp	oitals	(Total	it is neces-				70		
39)			-	-			sary for a						
Table III: R private hos	esults of	questic	onnair	e of Pl	nysici	ians in	physician						
private nos	pitais (10	(ai 39)					to have intensive						
Evalua-	Yes	per-	Ν	per-	Τ	per-	courses of						
tion		cent	0	cent	0	cent	the						
Ques-					SO		ethics						
tions					m e		from time to time?!						
					ex		7-Do you	31	79.5	7	17.9	1	2.6%
					te		support		%		%		
1 Did you	35	89.7	0	0%	nt 4	10.3	the impor-						
1-Did you study	55	89.7 %	0	0 /0	4	10.5	tance of teaching						
medical		, 0				10	medical						
Ethics be-							ethics in						
fore?	39	100	0	0%	0	0%	the medi-						
2-Do you think that	39	%	0	0 /0	0	0 /0	cal train- ing?!						
the health							In your	39	100	0	0%	0	0%
practi-							opinion,		%				
tioner must							does the (secret of						
comply							the core						
with the							values)						
ethics of							relation-						
his profes-							ship be- tween						
sion?							doctor						
3-Do you	38	97.4	1	2.6	0	0%	and his						
think that		%		%			patient						
ethics of the health							depend mainly on						
practi-							confiden-						
tioner has							tiality ?						
positive							9-Are you	15	38.5	16	41%	8	20.5
effect on his							influenced by the		%				%
patients?							Medical						
4-Do you	39	100	0	0%	0	0%	Ethics in						
think that		%					the recent						
dealing							evolution						

of patients' rights? 17 43.6 19 48.7 3 7.7% 7.8% 10 0.0% 10 25.6 29 74.4 10-Can 17 43.6 19 48.7 3 7.7% 7.7% 7.8% 10 25.6 29 74.4 10-Can 10 25.6 29 74.4 7.7% 7.7% 7.7% 7.7% 7.7% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.7% 7.8% 7.1%	10011 2220-0010	r	1	r		1	1	• 11	1		1		r	1
patients' rights? 17 43.6 19 48.7 3 7.7% 13-1s there problem or a con- dition that iores you to be- have un- ethically? 10 25.6 29 74.4 % 10-Can buted to manage the ethical problems faced by the doctor at the proc- tice of medicine 10 25.6 29 74.4 % 11-Did He 23 59% 14 35.9 2 5.1% 14-Docs or medical ethics bely you your du- ties as a doctor? 32 82.1 6 15.4 2 5.1% 11-Did He 240 23 59% 14 35.9 2 5.1% 5.1% 5 6 15.4 2 5.1% 10-Did He 240 23 59% 14 35.9 2 5.1% 5 6 15.4 2 5.1% 10-bits increase planed the impor- tance of the study of ethics uterts of the patients doctor 33 84.6 6 15.4 0 0% 9 23.1 29 74.4 12-laws planed 33 84.6 15.4 0 0% 1								cially or						
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	them ra-		1					doctor?			L			

19-Do you	36	92.3	3	7.7	0	0%	ment
think it is		%		%			Table III should the assume of asiants hereitably above
necessary to take the							Table III showed the responses of private hospitals' physicianstothetothe <t< td=""></t<>
patient's							study questionnaire. It showed that 89.7% of private hospitals'
consent							physicians had
before any action?							studied ethics. 100% thought that health practitioner must
20-Is there	5	12.8	5	12.8	29	74.4	comply with the ethics of his profession, dealing with colleagues ethically has posi-
a specia-	0	%		%		%	tive effect and
lized de-							relationship between doctor and his patient depend mainly on
partment set the							confidentiality (questions 2, 4 and 8). Also , more than 90% thought that eth-
ethical							ics of the health
rules in							practitioner has positive effect on his patients, that it is neces-
your hos- pital?							sary to take the patient's consent before any action (questions 3 and 19). On
21-Do the	24	61.5	12	30.8	3	7.7%	the other hand, the
new tech-		%		%	-		least agreements were about finding any health practitioner
nology							that behaved
and recent medical							unethically, exposure to any problem or a condition that forced them to behave
problems							unethically, medical ethics could be subjected to changes,
emerged a							Medical Ethics rules can
new ethi- cal							vary according to countries, the presence of specialized de- partment that set the
issues ?							ethical rules in their hospital and facing any difficulties in
22-Do you	7	17.9	7	17.9	25	64.1	maintaining medical
have diffi-		%		%		%	ethical values * questions 5, 13, 16, 17, 20 and 22).
culties in maintain-							The other questions showed different percentage variation in private hospitals'
ing							doctors' answers as seen in the table. The mean of all agree-
medical							ments was 77.25%
ethical values?							DISCUSSION
23-Did	23	59%	14	35.9	2	5.1%	The official code of medical ethics (5) explains in a precise manner the duties a doctor owes to a patient. It also specifies
Medical				%			behaviour between doctors as well as with the other health
Ethics							professions. Every practicing doctor must have his name regis-
help you to know							tered with the Medical Council. It is obvious that medical eth-
your							ics education has become a universal component of undergra-
duties to-							duate formal medical training in most countries.(5)
wards your							Our survey has shed some light on application of medical eth-
communi-							ics education in Hail. In the present study the mean number of respondents of medical students who were "satisfied "or
ty?							"moderately satisfied" reached 80.13% in group 1. This is a
24-Have	28	71.8 %	0	0%	11	28.2 %	good sign of education and applying medical ethics in faculty
you ever received		/0				/0	of medicine, Hail University, since 100% were studying medi-
an offer							cal ethics in the faculty.
from a							Nearly the same percentage of application of medical ethics
pharma- ceutical							was reported China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Thailand and
company							Australia, while in Korea and Malaysia, this ratio
to market							was 50 to 60% or lower.(6). Table I showed that 100% of medi-
one of its products?							cal students in faculty of medicine, Hail University had stu- died ethics, thought that ethics of the health practitioner has
Mean of	77.25%						positive effect on his patients, that relationship between doctor
total	,						and his patient depends mainly on confidentiality and never
agree-							received any offer from pharmaceutical companies be-

fore(questions 1, 3, 8 and 24). Also a high percentages (more than 90%) agreed that health practitioner must comply with the ethics of his profession, dealing with colleagues ethically has a positive effect, support the importance of teaching medical ethics in the medical training, explained the importance of the study of ethics commitment to the interests of the patient's doctor without any racial or religious discrimination, the study of medical ethics help them to know their duties as doctors, help them to know the patient's rights and the necessity to take the patient's consent before any action (questions 2, 4, 7, 12,14, 15 and 19).

Medical ethics were a part of medicine curriculum in Hail university in the third year. The course on ethics in our medical school is based on Islamic principles. Similarly, it was reported that courses in ethics were taught in the first and third years at the College of Medicine at King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia(7) They added that Medical students face ethical issues in their careers, as early as the first year of medical school.2 It is therefore imperative that education in bioethics start early.

Although medical students may acquire some of their ethics education passively through osmosis during their clerkships. (7) .Nearly similar results was reported by Lehmann et al. (in 2004)(8) . They sent questionnaires to 125 U.S. medical schools and 16 Canadian medical schools.. The response rate was 87% (123 schools). Seventy-one (78%) of the schools had medical ethics integrated as part of a larger course, such as Introduction to Clinical Medicine. This is an increase from what the prior studies found, where only 60% of the schools taught ethics as part of a larger course.9,10 The authors found that common barriers to medical ethics instruction were: lack of time in the curriculum, lack of qualified teachers.(8)

On the other hand, the least agreements (less than 10%), in group 1,were about finding any health practitioner that behaved unethically, exposure to any problem or a condition that forced them to behave unethically and facing any difficulties in maintaining medical ethical values * questions 5, 13 and 22).

In the present work, the mean of total agreement of application of medical ethics of physicians in governmental hospital in KKH and Hail hospital (group 2), was 84.44%. This result showed a high sign of application of medical ethics in governmental hospitals, since 92.3% of the sample of group 2 studied medical ethics before (table II). 100% of them thought that health practitioner must comply with the ethics of his profession and ethics (questions 2 and 3). Also, more than 90% thought that that dealing with colleagues ethically has positive effect, supported the importance of teaching medical ethics in the medical training and relationship between doctor and his patient depend mainly on confidentiality (questions 4, 7 and 8). On the other hand, the least agreements were about their exposure to any problem or a condition that forced them to behave unethically (0%), while 15.4% had difficulties in maintaining medical ethical values and 26.9% had received an offer from a pharmaceutical company to market one of its products (questions 13, 22 and 24).

SCFHS in KSA has published Code of ethics for healthcare practioners (6). This helped the physicians to practice ethics in the Kingdom. Also, in a study carried out in an area included the three main Saudi cities of Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam, as well as other smaller cities (Taif (west) and Tabuk (north)) Out of 110 participants, 90 replied in the study period giving a response rate of 82%. Following the first round, 32 ethical issues were identified, the top three of which were: Patients' rights (55; 61%), confidentiality of patients' information (41; 46%), and medical negligence / error (31; 34%). The least important were: Language barrier, private sections in public hospitals, and nursing practices (2, 2, and 1%, respectively).(9)

In the present work, the mean percentage of total agreement in physicians in the private hospitals in Hail city (group 3) was 77.25%.. 89.4% of those physicians studied ethics before (table III). 100% thought that health practitioner must comply with the ethics of his profession, dealing with colleagues ethically has positive effect and relationship between doctor and his patient depends mainly on confidentiality (questions 2, 4 and 8). Also, more than 90% thought that ethics of the health practitioner has positive effect on his patients, that it is necessary to take the patient's consent before any action (questions 3 and 19). On the other hand, the least agreements were about finding any health practitioner that behaved unethically, exposure to any problem or a condition that forced them to behave unethically, medical ethics could be subjected to changes,

Medical Ethics rules can vary according to countries, the presence of specialized department that set the ethical rules in their hospital and facing any difficulties in maintaining medical ethical values * questions 5, 13, 16, 17, 20 and 22). Alkabba et al (2012)(9) in KSA, reported that The major 10 ethical issues, as perceived by the participants in order of their importance, were: (1) Patients' Rights, (2) Equity of resources, (3) Confidentiality of the patients, (4) Patient Safety, (5) Conflict of Interests, (6) Ethics of privatization, (7) Informed Consent, (8) Dealing with the opposite sex, (9) Beginning and end of life, and (10) Healthcare team ethics.(9).

CONCLUSION

The medical ethics in Hail was highly applied. The third-year ethics course should be maintained, as the students found it appealing, interesting and relevant. Continuous medical education of ethics is essential for health care practitioners. They should be up to date to follow the Islamic medical ethics. Teaching applied ethics is more important than theory and, possibly resulting in a change of behaviour. Topics that are applicable to future practice should be given higher priority, especially if they are not discussed in other courses. Topics identified as priorities by experts in health care should be considered.

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